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CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 28, 1981

POLAND: Church Working for Calm

Archbishop Glemp's appeal for moderation on Wednesday suggests that the church is working behind the scenes to help ease tensions.

Glemp, in his second call for calm in as many weeks, criticized both Solidarity and the government for seeking to blame each other and called for a 30-day period of work and social tranquility. At the same time, he implicitly supported the union's demand for greater access to the media by chiding the government about several recent instances of slanted reporting. [REDACTED]

Glemp's appeal reflects the continuing concern among top-level church officials over the volatile situation. It also reflects his inclination to speak out more openly and frequently than his predecessor on Poland's problems. In a recent interview, the Archbishop provided the most frank exposition of church-state relations that has been published in Poland in many years. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, the national union leadership has renewed efforts to end local protests. It successfully persuaded the Radom chapter yesterday to suspend its planned strikes, and several key national leaders were in Olsztyn yesterday trying to stop the printers' strike. [REDACTED]

Request for Soviet Oil Denied

The USSR has rejected several Polish requests to increase oil deliveries this year. Although the USSR is extending nearly \$3 billion in aid to Poland in 1981, the Poles would like more Soviet assistance in the energy sector--probably the key problem area for the slumping Polish economy. [REDACTED]

The lack of hard currency has caused the Poles to cut oil imports from other sources, which have supplied about one-fifth of Poland's needs, by more than 90 percent. The resulting oil shortages have contributed to long lines at gasoline pumps and, combined with drastic declines in coal output, to falling industrial production. [REDACTED]

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